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The Hilltop 3-23-2005

Hilltop Staff

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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 88, NO. 51

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

WEDNESDAY NOTEBOOK

NATION & WORLD SOLDIER SHORTAGE



THE ARMY NEEDS MORE RECRUITS. FIND OUT WHAT MEASURES THEY ARE TAKING TO BRING IN MORE RECRUITS. **PAGE 4**

LIFE & STYLE

SOUL RETURNS TO THE AIRWAVES

NEW R&B ARTISTS ARE BRINGING SOUL BACK TO THE FOREFRONT. **PAGE 8**



SPORTS

SEVEN AND COUNTING THE LADY BISON SOFTBALL TEAM CONTINUES TO ROLL AS THEY CRUSHED COPPIN STATE IN A DOUBLE-HEADER YESTERDAY. THE TEAM IS CURRENTLY ENJOYING A SEVEN-GAME WIN STREAK. **PAGE 10**



HU CALENDAR

March 24

Student Elections

April 8

Last day to drop a class

WEATHER

TODAY
RAIN, THUNDER
High: 47
Low: 39

THURSDAY
AM SHOWERS
High: 50
Low: 40

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The Hilltop Endorses: Innovation, Open.Com



After hosting Monday's speakout in the Blackburn Center, Hilltop Editorial Board members endorsed Stewart and Harley for 2005-06 HUSA president and vice president and Asso Aidoo for undergraduate trustee. See the Editorials & Perspectives page for our reservations.

Maya Gilliam- Senior Photo Editor and Alvedo Alexander- Staff Photographer

Commission Keeps Student Elections Friendly

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT
Asst. Campus Editor

One day remains in the campaigning period for student government elections and most see a Jekyll and Hyde comparison between this year's and last year's. This is due to the determination of the Elections Commission to run a smooth election.

"This year's commission has done our best to make sure the campaign process is fair and allows the candidates to deliver their platforms to the students," said Jamal Anderson, the elections commission chair. "I think we accomplished what we were aiming for."

According to Anderson, no grievances have been filed on behalf of elections, a feat, he said that is historical.

"This is the first election, I believe, in a long time, to not have to deal with not one grievance," Anderson said. "It shows the quality of the commission and the candidates who are running this year."

Students said candidates verbally attacked one another last year in their campaigning.

"Last year, you would have thought they wanted each others' heads on a stick," said Ashley Wilson, a sophomore computer science major. "This year, they especially [HUSA presidential and vice presidential candidates] Byron [Stewart]

and April [Harley], tried to make it more about their goals rather than their opponents."

Joseph Gaines, a sophomore political science major, said, "Last year was so full of drama. There were so many problems and the candidates were so dirty in their campaigning."

In an effort to run clean elections, the Elections Commission set strict guidelines for the campaigning period. The guidelines stressed ethics and pushed for candidates to market their platforms instead of using questionable tactics that could be seen as bribes.

Candidates recognized that the commission made a big difference in the process.

"The campaign process went very well this year," Stewart said. "The Elections Commission has done a great job with ethics and guidelines, and the candidates have kept it pretty clean, unlike candidates in the past."

There was one change this year that the candidates saw as a setback: lack of dorm-sweeps. According to Anderson, the candidates were prevented from door-to-door campaigning in the dormitories, a decision made by Residence Life.

"It just made the campaigning

See **ELECTION**, Campus A2



Maya Gilliam- Senior Photo Editor

Bartell Preps for Pro Day

BY ZACHARY KENWORTHY
Sports Editor

Ronald Bartell Jr., Howard University defensive back, said he is preparing himself for Howard University's 2004 Pro Day, being held Wednesday at Greene Stadium. Pro Day will allow Bartell to further improve his stock entering this year's NFL Draft as he is due to become the highest drafted player in the history of Howard University.

Bartell took part in the 2005 NFL combine last month and impressed scouts with his tremendous speed and prominent physical appearance. As the first defensive back to run in the entire class at the combine, the former Bison ran a 4.43 and a 4.37 in his two sprints and has since garnered much more attention. He set a very high standard for the rest of the class and established himself as one of the biggest surprises thus far.

Bartell was told by NFL scouts that a good combine could improve his stock tremendously and he may be selected as early as the second round or late first. At 6-1, Bartell is an impressive figure with great potential, but it is understood that the leap from Division 1-AA football to the NFL may take a couple of seasons to navigate.

Thirty-one NFL teams will be represented at tomorrow's Pro Day and Bartell will get a chance to prove that his times and physical showing at the Combine were no fluke. Ironically, Bartell, who is a native of Michigan, recently admitted in an article by *The Washington Post* that the only team that has not expressed interest is the Detroit Lions.

Pro Day is also another chance for Bartell to enhance any previous relationships that he has with interested teams. Although it is a daylong event, the standout cornerback will workout specifically between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. He will be followed by a BET News crew and *The Washington Post*, which has been running an on-going series on Bartell, is also expected



Photo courtesy of All Pro photography

Ronald Bartell Jr., Howard University defensive back, anticipates making a good impression at Pro Day, Wednesday, to follow the defensive back.

Bartell has taken a hiatus from his studies in Criminal Justice and has less than a semester's worth of credits to take before he graduates. But, with less than a month before draft day, all energies have been directed toward the playing professionally for the NFL. To ensure that he pushes his draft stock to the highest possible apex, the suffocating corner has been working out at Athletes Performance in Tempe, Ariz., to improve his speed, weightlifting capabilities, strength and conditioning. The progress showed at the Combine where his stock may have improved more than any other athlete. The focus will be back on him at Wednesday's workout.

Glover Presents Award to Hurd

BY ALAN KING
Contributing Writer

and March 8.

Dominique Hurd, a junior radio, TV, film major, said she was proud when Torriana Terry, her film professor, entered her film into the FESPACO Pan African Film and Television Festival.

She was doubly honored when she was given the opportunity to visit West Africa when "Long Gone" received the Paul Robeson Youth Action Watch Award. Actor Danny Glover presented the award during the festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso between Feb. 26

The Paul Robeson Award is awarded to the best films from the Caribbean and the United States for their remarkable technical and artistic qualities.

"I was kind of stunned when they called me up and Danny Glover presented the award to me," Hurd said. "That just really encouraged me to further explore and try to be everywhere I can."

Hurd's film was based on a young woman suffering from ecstasy and alcohol abuse and a

See **AWARD**, Campus A2



Marlene Hawthorne- Staff Photographer

Dominique Hurd, junior radio, TV film major, traveled to West Africa earlier this month to attend a film festival. She received the Paul Robeson award for her film entitled "Long Gone."

JUNIOR SPEAK:

What has been your worst Spring Break experience?

“Freshman year, I had a lot of plans—I was going to take a road trip down south, to Virginia, and visit my friends at other colleges. But when spring break came, I had no money, nobody wanted to go; so I was stuck.”

Ray Baker, broadcast journalism

“Three buddies, Cancun, partying, but understand that the laws in Mexico are completely different from the U.S.; cops are for real—basically do what they ask. On the way back to our hotel we were stopped by the police. My friend had weed in his pocket, was arrested, and spent three days in jail. No bathrooms, there is no drinkable water, and they feed you green stuff; so he said. Naturally, this is my worst spring break experience.”

Reggie Thesis, administration of justice

“I was on my way to Aruba with some friends, a trip I would probably never get a chance to do again. But of course something had to go wrong. I was running late, but just in the nick of time I made my flight. I reached Aruba safely, but my bags did not. My bags were in Jamaica, how I don’t. It took two days to retrieve my belongings, I was infuriated.”

Zachary Francis, radio

“Meeting a guy during spring break that turned out to be a psycho, in the sense that he became stalker-ish; he found weird ways to get in contact with me. He was thinking long term; I was thinking we were chilling for the moment.”

Tatiana King, marketing

“I went to Miami my freshmen year with three other guys. One of my friends had never drunk before so he planned on drinking and having lots of fun. We were on the beach: some white boys were drinking out of a funnel and my friend chose to join in. Little did my friend know; they slipped an ecstasy peel in his cup. We drank too, but my friend was wasted. We turned in for the night. In the morning my friend would not wake up, we rushed him to the hospital. The doctors explained they had to pump his stomach. But they needed insurance info; luckily my friend had his information. We were scared about our parents finding out. The receptionist changed the illness from ecstasy to stomach virus. Our trip was ruined from there on out.”

David Coleman, physical education

“Staying here this spring break, I had to go to classes in Maryland.”

Jeremiah Evans, mechanical engineering

“I haven’t really had one, well, last spring break I went home.”

Rhonicia Douglas-Bland, psychology

“Freshman year, I took my four closest friends to Nashville. My car got a flat tire. I took my car to a rinky-dink shop, walked away from my car for two seconds, and I got robbed. There were only two of us at the shop; no one was in the car. Any type of identification, my check card, and \$30 dollars my grandmother gave me to get my tire fixed was stolen. I had no access to money, so I couldn’t do what I expected to do for the break. And on the way back to D.C., my friend got pulled over by the state troopers. The trip went from good to bad and from bad to worse.”

Leslie Thomas, sociology

Compiled by Kaia Karamoko

Graduate School Events

Friday, March 25

10 a.m.
Graduate School, Room 205
4th & College Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059
Candidate: Mr. Michael Owen Dixon
Department of Nutritional Sciences
College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences
Dissertation Title: “The Effects of Dietary and Fecal Phytate Associated with Fecal Minerals: Calcium, Cooper, Iron, and Zinc, Relative to Colonic Polyp Recurrence”
Committee Chairperson: Dr. Allan Johnson
Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Barbara F. Harland

Friday, April 8

Ph.D. CANDIDATES
- Last date on which defense examinations will be scheduled.

Friday, April 22

Theses, Dissertations and Certification Forms are due.

Friday, May 6

Degree candidates must obtain financial clearance by this date
Upcoming Announcements/Events

Monday, March 28

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Room 205
Contact Akesha Horton, amhorton@howard.edu

Tuesday, April 12

The Graduate Research Symposium
Blackburn Center
Call 806-7636/6800 for more information.

Deaf Women & HIV/AIDS in Africa Conference has been postponed. The new date will be posted on the website: www.deafricanwomen.org

Students Agree Election Process is Running Smoothly

ELECTION, from Campus A1

impersonal that we were unable to take our message to the dorm [residents],” Tahman Bradley, a HUSA presidential candidate, said.

Students said they have mixed feelings about the dorm sweeps.

“I don’t feel like the candidates really got their message out, and the dorm sweeps probably would have served as a another avenue,” said Shirley Barns, a junior psychology major. “But at the same time, do I really want somebody intruding on my personal space tell-

ing me about a platform that mirrors one that I have already heard?”

Despite the restrictions, candidates have been able to campaign at different events and each holds a moment dear to them. Bradley said the last basketball game meant a lot to him.

“We actually gave out the beach balls to the fans,” he said. “It was nice to see the fans’ reaction to us and their recognition.”

Stewart said the speakout in front of the flagpole sticks out in his mind because he took a dif-

ferent approach than the other candidates.

“The other candidates had memorized speeches, but I just freestyled it and spoke about what was on my heart,” he said. “It was my first time speaking out from the pole, and I felt important.”

Election Day is Thursday, March 24. Students may either log on to BisonWeb for the link or go directly to, www.howard.edu/elections, to cast their votes. The polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Unofficial results will be available by midnight.

Film Student Awarded in West Africa

AWARD, from Campus A1

friend who passively assists with the problem.

Senior radio, TV, film major David Rojas, one of the actors in “Long Gone,” said Hurd’s film was successful because she knew specifically who she wanted to work with.

“She knew she wanted quality, so she went and found those people that would deliver the quality for her,” Rojas said. “She’s definitely passionate about film. I think that’s what separates her from a lot of the other females that are in the school doing their film thing now.”

Senior film major Opiyo Okeyo began as the camera assistant for “Long Gone” and later became the editor.

“If I was half the man that she is woman, I would be half man, half amazing,” Okeyo said.

Another opportunity opened for Hurd when Paul Robeson Award Initiative (PRAI) Managing Director Sade Turnipseed appointed

her Youth Watch chairperson.

PRAI is a committee of African Film enthusiasts working to organize these films and videos, in collaboration with diasporic film & television festivals and independent filmmakers, according to robesonaward.com. Their intent is to assist Burkina Faso’s efforts to make FESPACO the official “Academy Awards” for all African and African-related films.

“One factor that hinders the development of a constant flow of quality black films is miscommunication or none at all,” Hurd said. “It is very important that we unite worldwide and build relationships. I count it pure joy that I can be an advocate within that focus.”

Hurd said her trip to West Africa was an unforgettable time in her life, but found parts of her experience there a bit troubling.

“It was kind of complicated because I couldn’t really talk with a lot of African

people there that were natives of Ouagadougou because it’s Franco-Phone West Africa,” she said.

“I couldn’t speak French. That was the biggest complication, but now that’s on the list. I have to really get serious with learning French if I’m going to communicate with my brothers and sisters in Ouagadougou.”

While it was difficult to make up her mind, Hurd concluded that her favorite moment on her trip was viewing other independent films. She also recalls several other memories.

“It was the culture and arts that I fell in love with,” she said.

“The dances, the beat of the drum, the artwork, and the children! The children were so mature for their age. A little girl no more than three years old greeted me with ‘bonjour madame’ and extended to shake my hand. I just melted with joy. Everybody was so beautiful.”

Candidates in Order for Ballot Position

HUSA

- 1) Tahman Bradley/Erin Ferguson
- 2) Byron Stewart/April Harley

Undergraduate Trustee

- 1) Asso Aidoo
- 2) Precious Kofie
- 3) Brooke Hyman

Graduate Trustee

- 1) Alfonz Ruth
- 2) Sellano Simmons

College of Arts and Sciences

Executive President and Vice-President

- 1) Myla Jones/Brittney Madison
- 2) Write-In Blank

Executive Secretary

- 1) Christetta Stone
- 2) Shar-Day Smith

Executive Treasurer

- 1) Annie Bailey

Undergraduate Student Assembly Representative (Choose 7)

- 1) Lisandra Green
- 2) William Roberts
- 3) Constance Trower
- 4) Raven Johnson
- 5) Tristan Mitchell
- 6) Raymond Tucker
- 7) Mark McGlone
- 8) Danielle Perry
- 9) Billie Holmes
- 10) Chad Williams-Bey

Sophomore Class Board President

- 1) Jennifer Burgess
- 2) Durrell Hairston

Vice-President

1) Wanjiku Mwangi

Junior Class Board President

- 1) Kathryn Hurley

Vice-President

- 1) Denika Mitchell

Secretary

- 1) Coretta Tillery

School of Business

Executive President

- 1) Floyd Mitchell
- 2) Michael Lyles II
- 3) Janeen Blige

Executive Vice-President

- 1) Lenora Robinson
- 2) Kecia Patton
- 3) Christopher Carter
- 4) Ashley Jones

Executive Secretary

- 1) Sadia Hay
- 2) Elyse Ambrose

Executive Treasurer

- 1) Ashley Williams
- 2) Armond Brown, Jr.
- 3) Trevor Prince, Jr.

Undergraduate Student Assembly Representatives (Choose 3)

- 1) Rory Scott
- 2) Whitney Jones
- 3) Jessica Foster
- 4) Michelle Taylor
- 5) Malik Sanders
- 6) Parish Bradley

Sophomore Class Board President

- 1) Ariel Roberts

Secretary

- 1) Amanda Johnson

Treasurer

- 1) Danneshia Brown

Junior Class Board President

- 1) Jenica Leonard
- 2) Justin Wilkes

Vice-President

- 1) Saul Camara

Secretary

- 1) Bethani Fuzz

Treasurer

- 1) Brittani Stepter

Senior Class Board President

- 1) Chevalier Strong

Vice-President

- 1) Morgan Scott

School of Communications

President

- 1) Brandon Wallace

Vice-President

- 1) Jennifer Owens

Secretary

- 1) Lauren Johnson
- 2) Jabari Smith

Treasurer

- 1) Rachel Cooper

Undergraduate Student Assembly Representatives (Choose 3)

- 1) Jeanie Fougere
- 2) Alison Brock
- 3) Jennifer Bryant
- 4) Carmen Muhammad
- 5) Mario Loving

School of Education

President

- 1) Sheri Frierson
- 2) Laureen Wimbley

Vice-President

- 1) Adrienne Smith

Secretary

- 1) Wajoili Ward

Undergraduate Student Assembly Representative (Choose 1)

- 1) Lakeisha Stockton

College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences

President

- 1) Oluwalosin Odunfa
- 2) Jason Paige

Vice-President (Engineering)

- 1) Lisel Forbes

Vice-President (Architecture)

- 1) Kristal Aquí
- 2) Michael Smith

Secretary

- 1) Tolu Onibiyo

Treasurer

- 1) Lateef Yusuf

Undergraduate Student Assembly (Choose 2)

- 1) Arnita Hayden

Sophomore Class Board President

- 1) Peter Scotland-Cudsoe

Junior Class Board President

- 1) Chukwunonso Ogbonna
- 2) Gillian Fraser

Vice-President

- 1) Ehimen Iyambobo
- 2) Dafina Edwards

College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences

President

- 1) Megan Jones

Vice-President

- 1) Kerlon Williams
- 2) Brandi Veley

Secretary

- 1) Gretchen Battle

Undergraduate Student Assembly Representatives (Choose 2)

- 1) Barbara McCray
- 2) Trinity LeFlora
- 3) Jade Beckett
- 4) Tiffany Reid

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Army Increases Enlistment Age For Reserves to 39

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

The Army announced this week that it will increase the enlistment age for Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers to 39, a five-year increase meant to add 22 million additional reserves over three years.

A statement from the Army said the age increase would expand the recruiting pool and give dedicated Americans the opportunity to defend their nation.

"Raising the maximum age for non-prior service enlistment expands the recruiting pool, provides motivated individuals an opportunity to serve, and strengthens the readiness of reserve units," an Army statement read. "Experience has shown that older recruits who can meet the physical demands of military service generally make excellent soldiers based on their maturity, motivation, loyalty and patriotism."

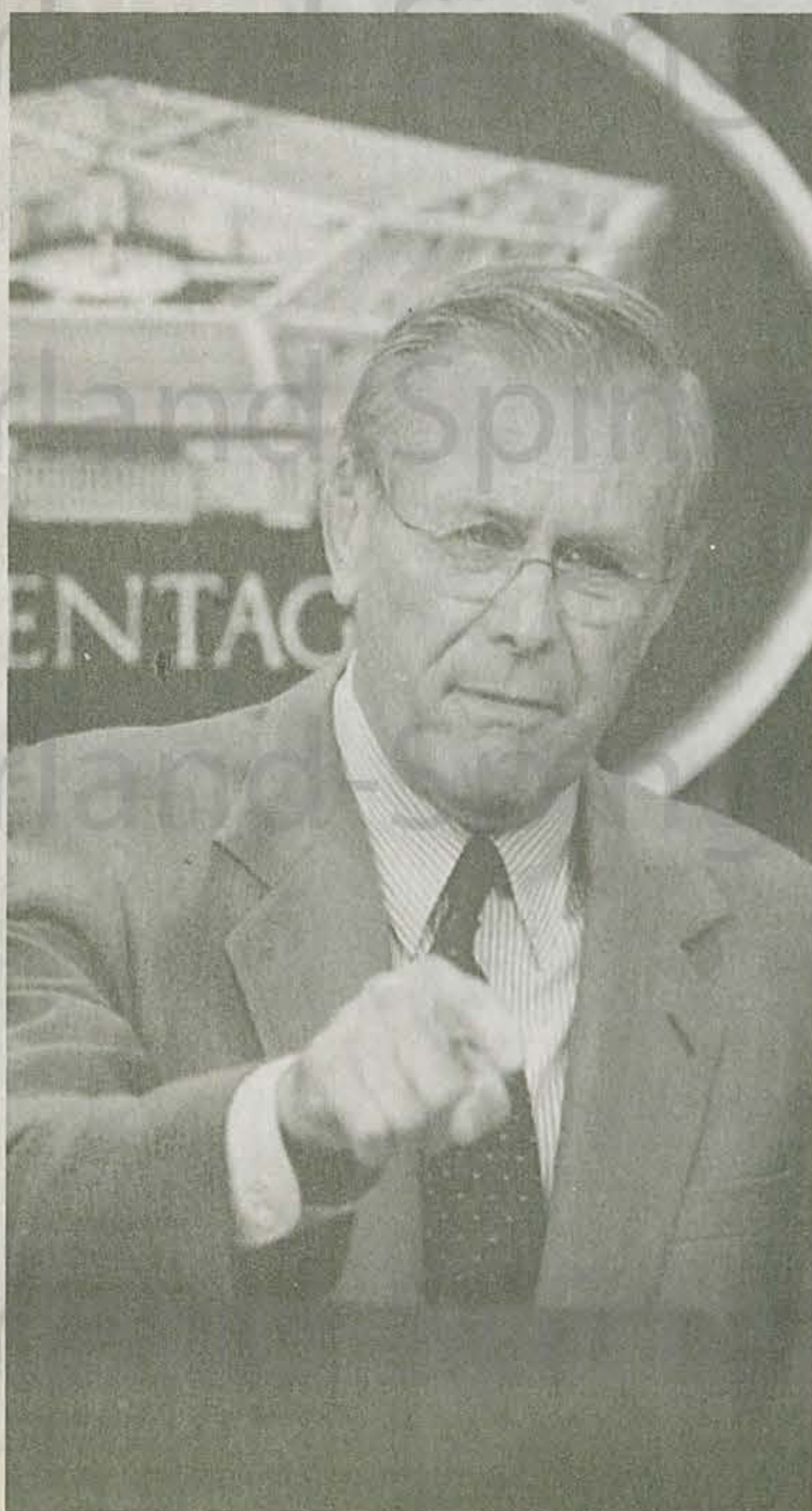
Officials said the new initiative would apply only to new recruits enlisting between now and 2008. Army spokesmen told reporters that it is possible the age limit for Reserve and National Guard soldiers will be raised again after the current three-year test ends. However, the age limit for the regular Army will remain at 34.

News of the age increase comes weeks after the Army disclosed that it was having trouble reaching recruiting goals as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue. Some defense analysts said the war in Iraq is the primary reason for the age increase.

"Obviously, this decision is being made partly in response to the personnel shortfalls caused by the war in Iraq," said Loren Thompson in an interview with CNN. Thompson is a defense analyst for the Lexington Institute, a think tank in Arlington, Va.

Thompson told CNN that an increase in life expectancy since the first age limit was implemented may also be playing a role.

"The pressure of wartime has pushed the Army to make a change that may have been over-



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due anyway," Thompson said. Forty-five percent of United States troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are reservists.

Many recruiters say the inability of policy makers to determine a timetable for troop withdrawals from Iraq is hurting recruitment the most. President Bush has said that U.S. forces cannot completely withdraw from Iraq until the country is stable enough to defend itself against a violent insurgency. This week Defense Secretary

Donald H. Rumsfeld acknowledged that the insurgency was slowing progress in Iraq, but said insurgents will not win the war.

"The thought of their prevailing in this conflict is a terrible thing," Rumsfeld told reporters Sunday. "They haven't stopped it, and they're not going to win... We have 25 million Iraqis that are free. The economy is coming back. The dinar is strong. The schools are open. The hospitals are open."

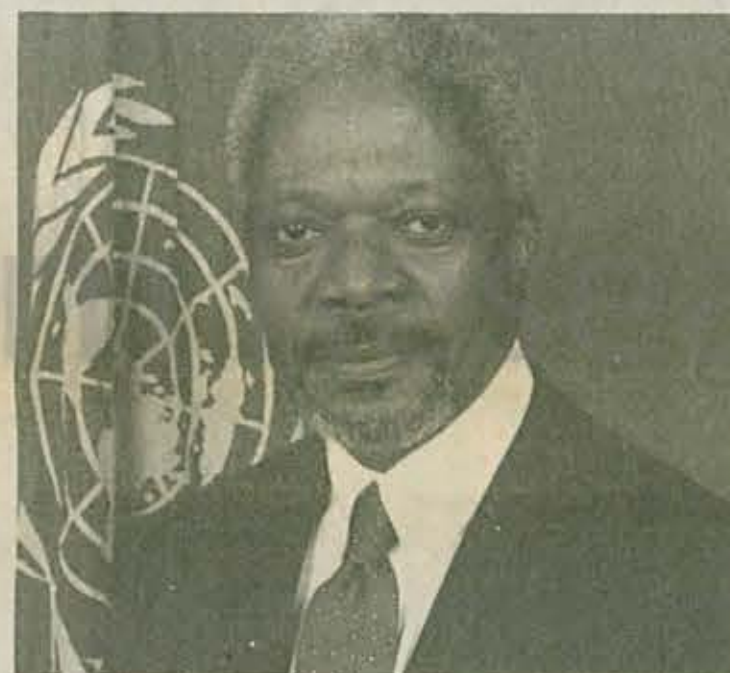
Nation & World Briefs

Man pleads not guilty to Letterman kidnapping plot

The man accused of conspiring to kidnap the son of television personality David Letterman pleaded innocent Tuesday in a Montana courtroom, according to CNN.com. Authorities said 43-year-old Kelly Franks, a painter who has done work for the entertainer's ranch in Montana, conspired to kidnap Letterman's 16-month-old son for a \$5 million ransom. Franks was arrested last week after an acquaintance told police about the alleged plot. The acquaintance, possibly a former colleague of Franks, told investigators that Franks boasted of having a key to Letterman's home. The acquaintance also said that Franks had knowledge of where the boy slept. Jim Hunt, Franks' attorney, told the judge the conversations did take place but that they were "lighthearted." The judge ordered Franks to remain in jail on bail. Franks' next court appearance is scheduled for April 5.

Hackers access identities at California University

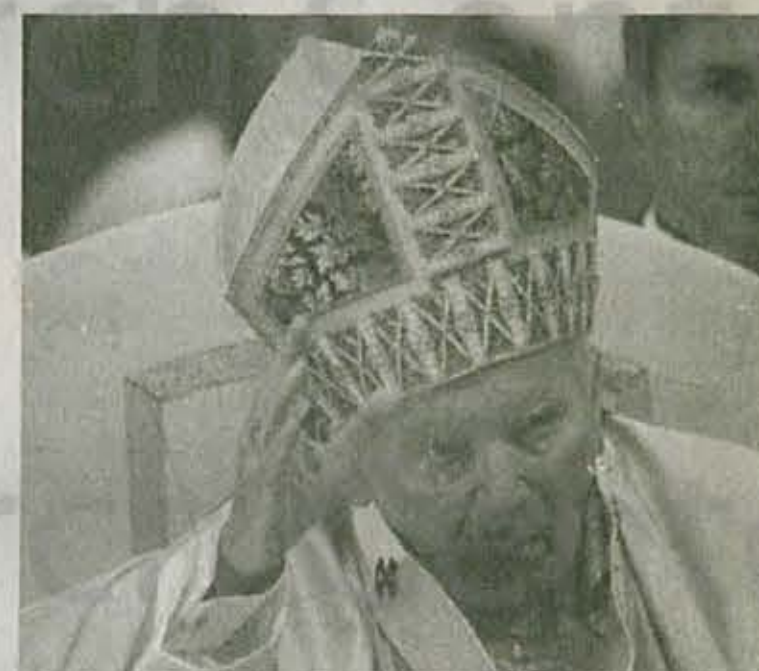
Authorities at California State University said Tuesday nearly 60,000 people affiliated with the university may have had their identities stolen by hackers. All of the victims, who were either staff members or current, prospective and former students, have been notified by authorities. Officials said the hackers gained access to Social Security numbers. "We still have no indication that the information was used for anything other than somebody wanting to have illegal access to this server," Joe Willis, a spokesman for the university, told the Associated Press. "Typically, on a college campus that can be to download files, music and games. There's still no indication they were looking to take personal information."



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United Nations says 1 billion need clean water

The United Nations said Tuesday more than 1 billion people around the world are lacking clean water. Health officials say the lack of usable water kills more than 3 million people in the developing world every year. Many are calling on the international community to do more and say rich nations take their water resources for granted. "People who can turn on a tap and have safe and clean water to drink, to cook with and to bathe in often take it for granted," Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, head of the World Health Organization, told the Associated Press. "Yet more than 1 billion of our fellow human beings have little choice but to use potentially harmful sources of water."



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Pope won't participate in Good Friday ceremonies

The Vatican announced Tuesday that Pope John Paul II, who is still ailing from throat surgery, will not participate in this week's ceremonies commemorating the death of Christ. "Unfortunately things are not going as well as we would have hoped," a Vatican official told Reuters. "These are the ups and downs of post-operative convalescence for a man of his age and condition." Another official told Reuters that "it is clear the pope is suffering a lot." This week is one of the busiest of the year for the pope. His last public appearance was on Sunday.



www.jsonline.com

Emmett Till gets highway honor

Mississippi announced plans Tuesday to honor 14-year-old Emmett Till, who was brutally murdered in 1955 after he allegedly whistled at a white woman. The state will honor Till by naming highways throughout Mississippi after him. "This is history in the way of Mississippi trying to change her image," said Sen. David Jordan (D-Miss.) to the Associated Press. "This is healthy for the state, and the state has got to start looking at it that way." Till was beaten beyond recognition and dumped into a river while visiting relatives in Mississippi. Despite the damage done to Till's face and body, his mother insisted on an open casket at the funeral. More than 50,000 people attended Till's funeral in Chicago.

Compiled by Kevin Harris
Nation & World Editor

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Applications will be available to pick up beginning March 25 at The Hilltop Office located on the P-level of the Howard Plaza West Towers

Applications are due Friday April 8th.

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Deputy Section Editors
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Staff Writers
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Copy Editors
Copy Chief
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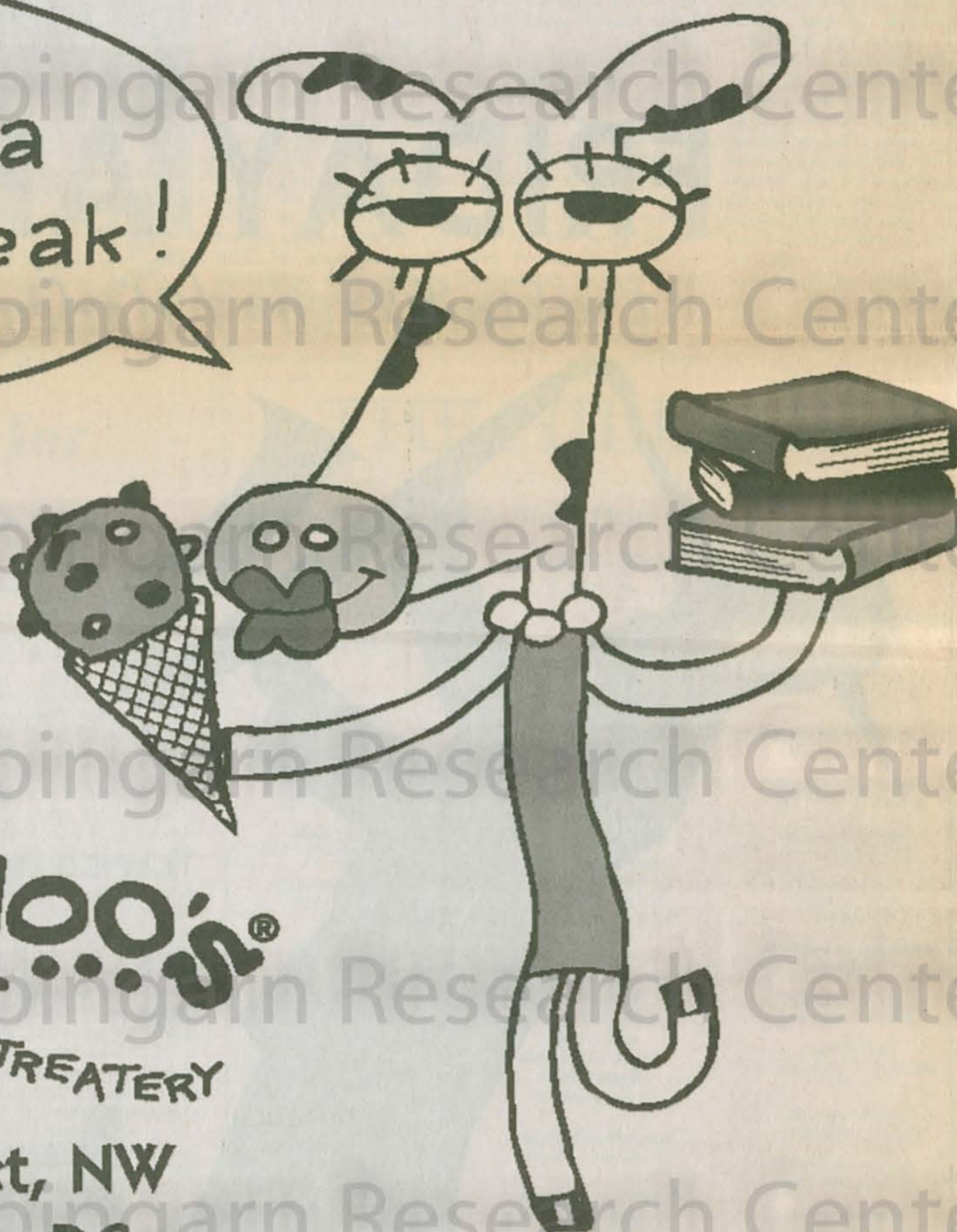
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EDITORIALS & PERSPECTIVES

VOLUME 88, NO. 51

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005

www.thehilltoponline.com

The Hilltop Endorses Innovation, Open.com



Innovation Is What HUSA Needs

When we choose to endorse candidates for HUSA President and Vice President, we have a lot to consider. These job titles are some of the most highly paid, respected and powerful positions on campus. It takes a dynamic duo to represent the student's, faculty and school in a way we see fit. This endorsement was difficult because both platforms were so different. They had their strong points and weak points, but we leaned toward Byron Stewart and April Harley because of their passion and goals.

Stewart effectively explained the differences between the two campaigns by comparing HUSA to a tree.

The Innovation platform seeks to nurture the tree so it grows and branches off into new and exciting directions. Tahman Bradley and Erin Ferguson's Back to the Basics Platform seeks to chop the tree down and plant a new tree with new ideas and foundations.

The irony with the Innovation platform is how much it reminds us of Conrad Woody and Freda Henry's platform ReDefinition. Despite the poor name choice, we like the ideas they stand for. We are pleased with the way HUSA has been running this year, and we think continuing certain approaches and ideals would be a good thing.

The Innovation platform is broken down into three cat-

egories. The first is Innovation in Student Leadership, which includes the creation of a universal calendar, improving the timeliness of organization funding and continuing "HUSA in Your House." The second category, Innovation in Community Outreach, focuses on keeping Howard involved in the surrounding areas and hosting youth summits, etc. The last category, Innovation in Student Involvement, aims to keep students informed and involved in our government. Students will have the opportunity to get involved and meet elected officials through the "Meet Your Government" events. All of the initiatives on the platform seemed realistic and necessary to us.

There were strong and impressive points for the Back to the Basics Platform as well. We liked the very detailed platform, which had some new ideas and categories we don't normally hear about. The internship, scholarship and graduation focus was something that could really benefit Howard students.

During several speakouts, Tahman Bradley made a point of commenting on Yardfests and fish fries being unnecessary. We thought he was trying to say business should come first and we understand that. However, we think social events are important and helpful to promote unity on campus

and between students and their government. To hear this opinion at the speakouts then read "Sponsor a HUSA Mini Yardfest and Recreation Nights" on the back of the platform seems contradictory.

The Back to the Basics Platform focused on slicing through the layers of the bureaucracy and eliminating certain positions such as the grievance director. We appreciate their interest in trying to break down some of the layers that hinder us from speaking directly to someone important.

However, every organization on campus has a bureaucratic structure because it is necessary. This helps keep things organized and alleviates some of the pressure and overload that would result without that structure. Bradley and Ferguson would drown in obligations without that organization.

Since the Innovation platform mirrors the ReDefinition platform a lot, we want to make sure some changes will be made. We feel we had a good year, but each year something should improve. We can't anticipate the struggles and obstacles Howard University might face next year so we want to know the Innovation team will be prepared for whatever might come their way. We're confident they will be ready.

Say 'I Do' to Aidoo for Undergraduate Trustee

Students tend to be confused about the capabilities of the Undergraduate Trustee. The job title is somewhat limited because the student is only a member of a board, which collectively makes decisions.

The Undergraduate Trustee isn't allotted a budget to work with or given the opportunity to really create new programs and initiatives. We expect more extensive platforms and ideas for the HUSA President and Vice President, while the Undergraduate Trustee is simply a voice and liaison between the undergraduate student body and the Board of Trustees.

When considering which candidate to endorse, we broke the judgment categories down into professionalism, visibility, knowledge and experience, personality and feasibility of the platform initiatives. We give credit to each of the candidates for excelling and standing out in certain categories.

We feel Asso Aidoo has conducted herself in a very professional manner every time we have seen her. Her ability to articulate is key because she would be interacting with other adults and representing the undergraduate student body if elected. During speakouts and campaigns she carried herself in a very business-like and believable way. We have been impressed.

Being able to state the issues and potential solutions to problems students face clearly is the most important skill the Undergraduate Trustee needs. Without effective communication, the concerns of the student body would be ignored.

Asso Aidoo has been a very visible candidate on campus. When we see a candid-

out campaigning frequently, it shows dedication and focus. It isn't the lollipops or popularity that keeps our attention; it is the hard-working individual who stands out. We give credit to the other candidates, Precious Kofie and Brooke Hyman, for their visibility as well. There wasn't a moment that passed where we didn't see Kofie, in particular, walking around talking to students.

The Hilltop sponsored a speakout Monday to help us decide which candidates we were leaning toward. We asked each of the three candidates several questions to get a feel for who was the most knowledgeable.

We give Hyman credit for being able to answer most of the questions correctly. Aidoo was also able to answer a majority of the questions correctly and she seemed surprisingly informed for a "non-student leader." When she didn't know the answer she was genuine and professional in admitting she just didn't know. We appreciated the honest vibe.

All of the candidates seem to be personable and friendly people. No candidate stood out in a negative light in this category. Aidoo and the other candidates all seem dedicated to the position and genuinely interested in hearing the concerns of the students.

We spent most of our time discussing the platform category because this is the judge of who wants to do what during their tenure. Aidoo has already established a helpful Web site designed to be interactive and connect with students to hear their concerns.

Aidoo's platform, "Representation With Communication," was precise, realistic and understandable.

Her first initiative is opening communication between the students and the Board of Trustees. The second initiative is to listen to students' concerns through monthly forums.

Aidoo also aims to address the issues important to students and support university fundraising. In addition, the platform listed enhancing the student body's relationship with the Board of Trustees as a top priority. Lastly, Aidoo wishes to strengthen Howard University's relationship with the surrounding Shaw community.

Every initiative on the platform seemed important and feasible to us. We would expect Aidoo to not only accomplish these goals, but also to exceed our expectations. When considering the reach of the position, we want to endorse a candidate who clearly understands his or her title and authority. Aiming high is good, but making unrealistic goals results in disappointment from the students.

When endorsing any candidate, it is impossible to not have reservations. We vacillated and discussed the good and bad qualities of each candidate thoroughly. We understand that no candidate is perfect and one's capabilities might not show through campaigning.

We feel that Aidoo needs to become a little more knowledgeable on certain details before we can be fully confident. We don't doubt that if she were Undergraduate Trustee she would be better informed on things the average student wouldn't know. We hope that if elected, she will stick to her platform and keep the lines of communication open.

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

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Soul Revisited: New Soul and R&B Artists

BY MONET KING
Contributing Writer

Not since the post- Lauryn Hill era of the late 1990s has soul music had such a deep resurgence in mainstream appeal.

In the mid 1990s soul music controlled the airwaves and voices like D'Angelo, Maxwell and Erykah Badu ushered in a quiet wave of introspective, intense music that had critics and fans alike dubbing "neo soul" the new flavor of choice. But, like all things over-saturated, soul music took a backseat and gave way to pre-packaged pop groups and video eye candy.

That led to one hit wonders and artificial talent. Now, a different kind of soul music has been conceived. It's edgier, funkier, infused with hip-hop beats and social undertones, this soul music speaks to this generation completely un-adulterated and unlike its predecessors, is wholeheartedly original.

Here are a few soul musicians not quite on household name status, but

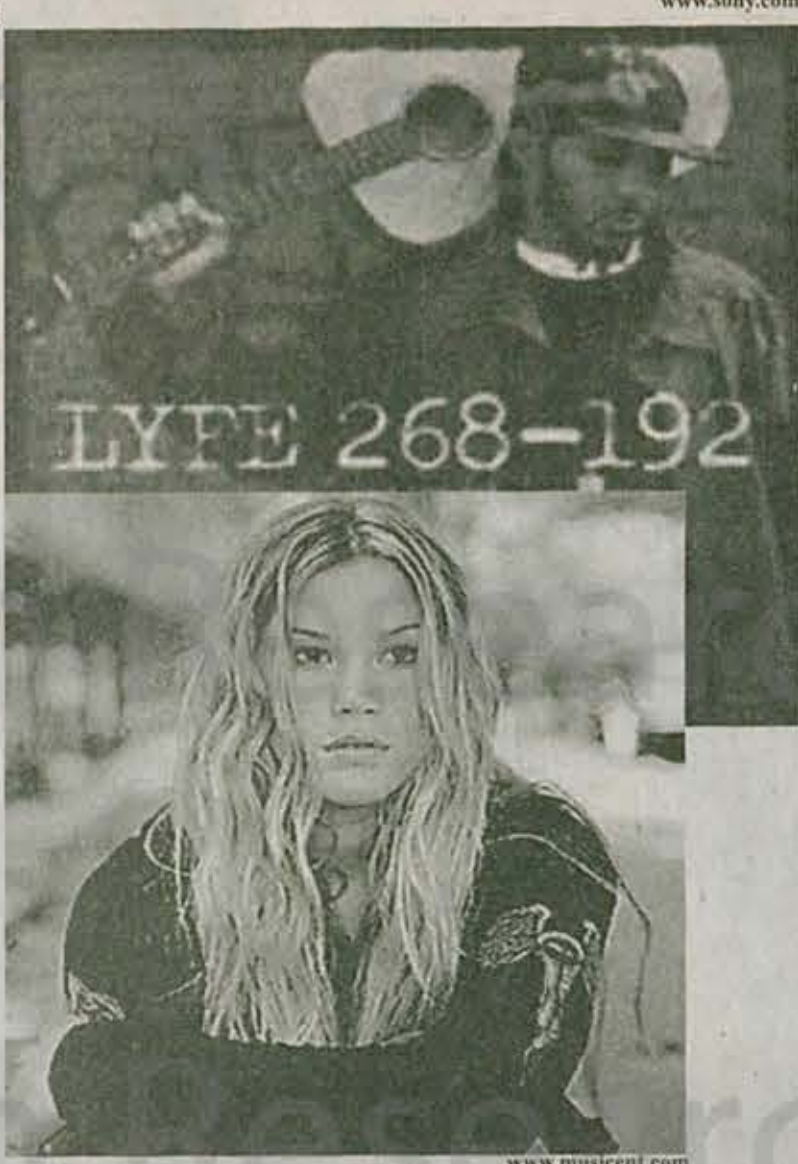
worthy of praise in their own right.

Joss Stone
Who knew a 17-year-old from a farm town outside of England could belt out love songs like a woman twice her age. In less than two years, this UK export has released two albums: 2003's *The Soul Sessions* and last year's *Mind Body and Soul*. Her emotions are conveyed honestly in her own songwriting and bluesy delivery of singing is somewhat shocking and refreshing at the same time. Her career, though short and highly underrated, is sure to make waves soon.

Van Hunt
Inspired by his father's pimp-like ways, Van Hunt embraced his father's non-conventional lifestyle to give way to musical styles that culminated in a stew full of jazz, funk and a hint of rock (think of a young Prince). His music reveals a young man riddled with a lot of pain, love and forgiveness to mix into his self-titled album. Even though

it was a modest release, this album is one to pick up and store in your iPod.

Lyfe
Born Chester Jennings in Ohio, Lyfe honed his skill in the church at a young age. After spending time in jail for some years, Lyfe was reacquainted with his love of music. There he wrote original songs and played guitar, the songs he crafted there became masterpieces on his melancholy and irreverent debut *Lyfe 268-192*. Those songs range in emotions from love, regret, heartache and the ever-present baby mama drama.



Former XXL and VIBE Editor Promotes New Book

BY AYESHA RASCOE
Campus Editor

Miles Marshall Lewis, former music editor for Vibe magazine, deputy managing editor for XXL and now author, has a lot to say about the origins of hip-hop and the responsibility that listeners should take for the artform. Now, he is working to carry his message worldwide.

Lewis made a stop at the Howard University bookstore last month to promote his book, "Scars of the Soul: Are Why Kids Wear Bandages When They Don't Have Bruises." He derides the mainstream rappers of today for glorifying prison, encouraging materialism, and degrading women.

"I started out [writing my book] with the thesis that hip-hop is dead but changed that early on," Lewis said in an interview. "It's not that hip-hop is dead, it's just not balanced. Part of that is the fault of record labels who don't promote positive albums and part of that is the responsibility of album buyers who know [of positive albums] and won't spend \$15 to buy them."

Stressing the lack of balance in rap music today, Lewis thinks that music channels and radio stations only offer part of the viewpoint of African-Americans while in reality, "there are a million perspectives in the Black community."

According to Lewis, album sales are like votes and consumers have the power to elect whoever they want to represent hip-hop to the world.

"We are hip-hop and the responsibility of hip-hop's direction is on us, not [solely] MTV or Vibe," Lewis said.

While Lewis is discouraged by the current state of hip-hop, he believes some things are going right in music. He was pleased when Outkast, the unconventional rap duo, won Grammy's and sold millions of albums last year.

Additionally, he was impressed by the efforts of rap moguls, Russell Simmons and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, to get out the vote for the 2004 presidential election.

In "Scars of the Soul," Lewis also praised rapper KRS-One for founding Temple of

Hip Hop, an organization which promotes incorporating elements of hip-hop into daily life.

A Bronx native, Lewis witnessed the birth of hip-hop and felt compelled to write his book because he wanted to impart knowledge about how the art form came about.

"Hip-hop is like the greatest form of African-American expression to date because it can incorporate blues...and jazz," Lewis said. He cited recent the collaboration of rapper Nas with his father Olu Dara, a blues artist, on the song "Bridging the Gap," as an example. He also lauded hip-hop as a medium for the exchange of ideas.

"It's a way to communicate intra-culturally and to the outside," he said.

"There's a great benefit to that. It facilitates communication between Blacks and Whites." Through rap music, Lewis said Whites have been able to understand the Black experience more than ever before.

Lewis was invited to speak at Howard by Daiyyah Abdullah, an English professor who teaches freshman composition course. While Abdullah was preparing for a study abroad course, she sent out requests for essays by Black people who have been to Paris on a few list serves. Lewis, who lives in Paris, responded to her request. After reading Lewis' work, Abdullah thought it would be beneficial for her class to hear him speak.

"I thought the writing was immediately accessible especially for first year college students," Abdullah said.

Abdullah, who admits that she does not know much about hip-hop, believes that it



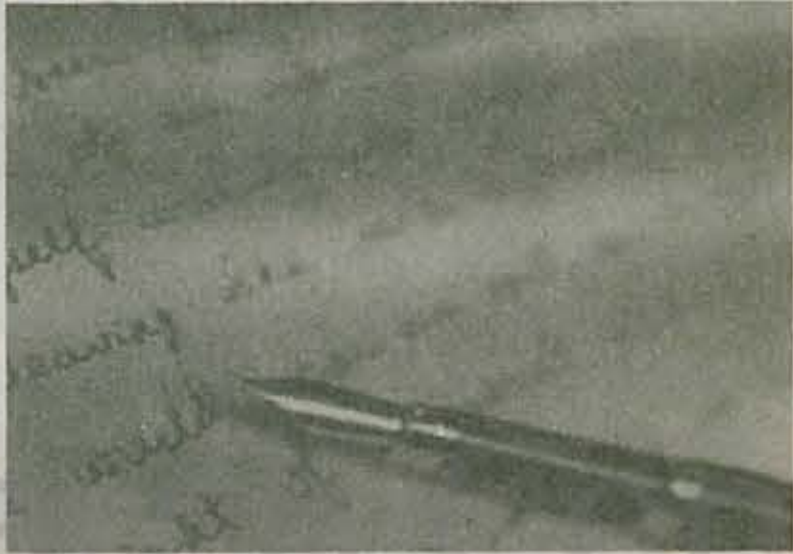
Miles Marshall Lewis calls hip-hop a medium for the exchange of ideas, and says, "Hip-hop is like the greatest forms of African-American expression..."

is important for the younger generation to study it academically and has incorporated hip-hop in her classroom before.

"In the past, I've spent too much time on things that interest me, all from the Black arts movement," Abdullah said. "[Now] I try to find something that's fresh."

Overall, Lewis hopes that through his work he will be able to educate others about an art form that deeply impacted his life.

"I think the older the culture gets then the more books like mine will provide evidence of the origins of hip-hop," Lewis said. "Books are eternal. People are more likely to pick up a 40-year-old book than an old album by Kurtis Blow."



TRUTHS FOR LIVING

- The more generous we are, the more joyous we become.
- The more cooperative we are, the more valuable we become.
- The more enthusiastic we are, the more productive we become.
- The more serving we are, the more prosperous we become.
- The more outgoing we are, the more helpful we become.
- The more curious we are, the more creative we become.
- The more patient we are, the more understanding we become.
- The more persistent we are, the more successful we become.

BY WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD



FDA Nears Plan to Sell Contraceptive Over the Counter: Nominee

The man nominated to head the U.S. Food and Drug Administration indicated in his confirmation hearings that the agency is putting the finishing touches on a plan to allow for over-the-counter sales of the so-called "Plan B" morning-after contraceptive, the *Washington Post* reported Friday.

Acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford, whom President Bush has officially nominated to lead the agency, tried to appease Senate critics including Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), who accused the agency Thursday of stalling on the Plan B issue for

political reasons.

"I can assure you that this decision will not be based on politics," *The New York Times* quoted Crawford as saying. "It will be based on science."

Despite an expert panel's recommendation that the drug be approved for over-the-counter use, the FDA last year turned down a proposal to sell Plan B without a prescription. Critics accused the agency of ceding to conservative lawmakers, who fear the plan would encourage teen-age promiscuity.

Crawford also repeated the agency's promise to create an independent oversight board to monitor the safety and effectiveness of drugs once they've been approved.

Miami Infant May Be Year's 1st West Nile Case

A 14-month-old baby hospitalized in Miami may be the nation's first case of West Nile virus this year, the *Miami Herald* reported Tuesday.

Preliminary tests suggest the infant has the mosquito-borne disease, which usually does not appear until early summer. Doctors at Baptist Hospital have forwarded blood samples to the state's Jacksonville Laboratory, where any West Nile diagnosis in Florida must be confirmed, the newspaper said.

Experts say the best way to avoid West Nile is to stay indoors at dusk and dawn, wear long clothing, use insect repellent containing DEET and rid outdoor areas near the home of standing water, where mosquitoes breed.

West Nile is usually spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are carriers that become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread West

Nile to humans and other animals when they bite, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Heart Solution I.V. Possibly Contaminated

A single lot of an intravenous solution commonly used in heart patients may be contaminated with the same bacteria that caused this year's flu shot shortage, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has advised doctors.

The lot of Magnesium Sulfate, produced by PharMEDium Services of Houston, was stamped with number 100504900049 and an expiration date of April 4, 2005. It may be contaminated with *Serratia marcescens* bacteria that can cause life-threatening illness in patients with weakened immune systems, the FDA said.

The affected product was shipped to several hospitals nationwide, and has been associated with at least five recent cases of bacterial infection at an unidentified New Jersey hospital, the agency said. The infected patients are all said to be recovering well after antibiotic treatment.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is one of several agencies that has launched an investigation into the incident, the FDA said in a statement.

Compiled by Erica Williams
Life & Style Editor
Courtesy of healthday.com and yahoohealth.com

The Hilltop Policy Board is currently seeking applicants for the 2005-2006:

Business Manager

Applications are available in the Office of Student Activities, Blackburn Center Suite 117 or on our website www.howard.edu/currentstudents/studentlifeactivities/

Applications are due on March 25, 2005 by 5:00 pm.

Hornets' Grit Is Representative of MEAC Determination



Duke's Sheldon Williams battles for a rebound with Delaware State's Bruce Davis during their first round NCAA tournament game in Charlotte, last week. Del State, who represented the MEAC, hung in with a very strong Duke team.

BY ASHLEY ROSS
Sports Editor

The Delaware State Hornets barely made it into the first round of this year's NCAA Tournament with a last second eight-foot tip-in by senior guard Aaron Williams.

However, before the shock could disappear from the faces of their opponents, the favored Hampton Pirates, the Hornets were thrown directly into the fire with a first-round match-up with the Duke Blue Devils. Although the Hornets had already won 15 of their 17 previous games, Head Coach Greg Jackson knew they would have to restructure their game plan to defeat the Blue Devils.

"We knew coming in here that we weren't going to be able to run with them," Jackson told the Associated Press. "We tried to limit their possessions. I thought we did an outstanding job of that the first 18 minutes of the ball game. We allowed ourselves to stay in the ballgame."

However, the Hornets did more than stay in the ball game during the game's first half. With a five-guard line-up, the Hornets managed to spread the floor and let the clock wind down on the Blue Devil defense. With less than five minutes to go, Delaware State managed to lock the score up at 28 with a layup by Alain Walker.

Post-game, Duke Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski told the Associated Press, "They're quick, and they're good kids. They play together. It didn't seem to matter who shot the ball. However we played in the first half, they [Delaware State] made us play that way."

A whole new team stepped onto the court for Duke during the second half. Opening with an 11-2 run, the Blue Devils took hold of the lead and refused to let it go. Keeping the Hornets scoreless for eight minutes straight the momentum of the game remained in their favor to the end. Free throw also proved to be an integral part of the game with Delaware State shooting 3-6 (50%) to Duke's 19-29 (65%). With time winding down, Duke's defense proved to be too much for the Hornets who missed several crucial shots.

With the final score Delaware State 46 and Duke 57, Coach Jackson told the Associated Press, "I thought our kids put forth a great effort. There's no question we gave it our best shot. The kids showed a lot of patience and desire until the talent just took over. It's still a loss, but I think what these kids did tonight says a lot about our confidence. I think this game sent a message to the country that you have to deal with Delaware State."

Even with this loss the Delaware State Hornets placed the MEAC conference on the map as a future contender not to be easily overlooked. The MEAC has always provided solid competition, but in the team's first trip to the tournament, Delaware State proved that they were worthy contenders and represented the entire conference.

"I know that we just beat an extremely well coached team and a great group of kids," said Coach Krzyzewski. "They did not give up. They won their conference regular-season and tournament championship by sticking with their system and believing in that system... It was an honor to beat Delaware State."

Lady Bison Win Doubleheader, Continue 7-Game Win Streak

BY LINDSEY WALTON
Contributing Writer

The Howard Lady Bison softball team trashed out a two-game battle against the Coppin State Lady Eagles to increase their current winning streak to seven games as they won the first game 5-1 and the second 12-7 yesterday. The hot streak comes after the Lady Bison defeated Campbell, James Madison and Slippery Rock, along with conference opponent University of

Maryland Eastern Shore and finally the sweep over Coppin State.

Game one against the Lady Eagles appeared to be a formality as the Lady Bison crushed their challenger 5-1. Sophomore outfielder Larcus Pickett set the tone early for Howard as she smashed a homerun over the fence with two runners on base at the top of the second inning.

Following the first victory, freshman pitcher Jillian Johnson

faced a resilient Coppin squad as they rallied back from a 4-1 deficit. The Bison lead was lost as Coppin took the upper hand 5-4 in the top of the fourth inning of the second game.

"I told them they dug themselves a hole and they needed to dig themselves out of it," assistant Coach Pelar Bennett said of the "undeserved" Coppin rally.

Bison Head Coach Tonja Braxton brought in freshman pitcher Dale McNeal, who pitched a stellar performance in Game one, to allay the Coppin comeback. That is just what she did.

However, McNeal did feel a little pressure in her game two appearance. "I felt the pressure because I was coming in to face the heart of their line-up," she admitted after the game. "But I just made sure that my pitches were in the right location and the movement [of the pitches] was right. I just made sure I hit my spots."

The Lady Bison sluggers also put on their rally caps immediately after Coppin made its run. "We didn't get down mentally and we stayed motivated while we were behind," junior right fielder Debbie Lee said of the comeback.

Junior second baseman Nayrobi Nicholas, junior outfielder Richelle Charles and Pickett hit doubles along with a triple by junior utility player Ashley Webb in the rally. The bottom of the fourth inning featured six Lady Bison hits and a stolen base, putting Howard ahead 10-5.

The Lady Eagles attempted a comeback as junior outfielder Jenny Harrell had an RBI in the top of the fifth and sophomore shortstop Missy Bell had a double in the top of the sixth to add two to the score. However, McNeal once again came out strong, striking out a total of seven batters in the last three innings.

The Lady Bison will look to continue the streak as they take on the Lady Red foxes of Marist College on Thursday. The game will take place at Banneker Stadium at 2 p.m.

Duncan Done for Regular Season?

BY JONATHAN DAVIS
Contributing Writer

There is an old saying that, "The third time's a charm." Well for San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan, what he did on Sunday, for the third time this year, may cost have cost him playing time for the rest of the regular season.

In his Sunday match-up with the Detroit Pistons, the two-time Most Valuable Player in the NBA, came down on the foot of Piston forward Rasheed Wallace and collapsed on the floor.

The injury was so bad that forwards Sean Marks and Tony Massenburg had to carry Duncan to the locker room. He could put no weight on his right ankle at all. This was the third time he sprained his right ankle this season and the second time this month.

"It's the same ankle he hurt previously and he really did a number on this one," coach Gregg Popovich said, according to FoxSports.com. "It's not broken, but he can't walk on it or anything right now. X-Rays were negative."

Duncan was flown back to San Antonio to begin treatment, while his teammates went to New York and lost 88-75 to the Knicks. The Spurs, according to an NBA.com recap of the contest, endured a period of 11 minutes in the second half without making a field goal. In that period of time, they missed 12 straight shots and turned the ball over nine times.

For the next two to four weeks, the Spurs will be without their offensive and defensive anchor as he was placed on the injured list Monday after an MRI exam. Duncan was the Spurs leading scorer and



The Spurs lost the league's most complete player when Tim Duncan went down with a sprained right ankle on Sunday.

rebounder averaging 21.2 ppg 11.5 rebounds and 2.7 blocks. He will likely be out the remainder of the regular season.

Against the Knicks, the Spurs had a 59-53 halftime lead with 3:44 left in the third quarter, but New York used a 25-1 run to take control of the contest. The Spurs, as a team, managed only 28 points in the second half.

"This was a difficult game," said Spurs guard Devin Brown, according to NBA.com recap article, who lead the Spurs with 22 points in their loss to New York. "We started of really well in the first half and then the late third quarter really hurt us. We were unable to recover in the fourth."

The Spurs (50-17) have 15 games remaining over the next 29 days. They did clinch a playoff berth last week and

are now in a serious battle with the Phoenix Suns (49-16) for the top spot in the Western Conference. They are also in a battle with the Suns and Miami Heat (52-16) for home-court advantage throughout the NBA postseason.

If the Spurs have any intentions of getting the top seed in the West and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, will have to do it without Duncan. In the five games he has missed, the Spurs have lost four.

"We've played without him before, and we just have to keep going," said guard Tony Parker. "It's not like we have a choice. Our other big guys (Nazr Mohammed, Rasho Nesterovic, Tony Massenburg and Sean Marks) will have to do more and the rest of us will have to step up."



Pitcher Dale McNeal struck out seven hitters yesterday.

MEAC Softball Northern Division				
	MEAC		Overall	
Teams	W	L	W	L
Hampton	4	0	11	7
Howard	2	2	7	12
Md. Eastern Shore	2	2	3	7
Delaware State	0	0	2	2
Morgan State	0	2	1	15
Coppin State	0	2	0	12

Bison Sports Shorts

Lacrosse – The Howard University Lady Bison are set to take on Virginia Tech tomorrow in Blacksburg, Va. The Lady Bison are coming off a difficult 19-7 loss at the hands of Drexel University. The Dragons managed to put together four sets of hat tricks in the thumping win. Drexel opened the game early with a score from Kerry Kelly, but Howard's Iram Abdullah responded quickly with a fast break goal and Synister Washington scored after another Drexel score to even up the game. However, the Dragons eventually pulled away with nine unanswered goals to end the first half.

Tennis – The Howard University Bison travel to the Hampton Roads Elite 8 Team Tournament tomorrow in Virginia Beach, Va. The Lady Bison are 2-3 in the MEAC this season and have an overall team record of 3-6. The men, on the other hand are 3-2 in the MEAC and have a solid 5-4 overall record. Both teams are looking to improve against tournament competition.